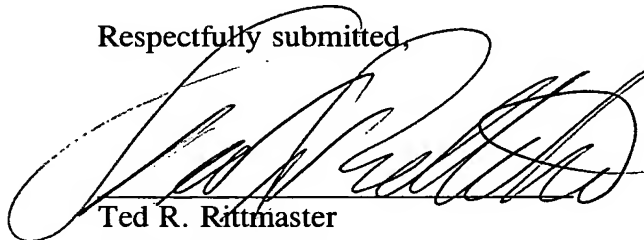


31. (New) A method for determining the efficacy of treatment for hypertension comprising assaying a sample of human bodily fluid *in vitro* for the level of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) contained in the sample and wherein reduced CT-1 levels are indicative of an efficacious treatment.

Remarks:

Prior to the first Office Action, please enter the above amendments to the application and claims. By this Preliminary Amendment, original claims 1-16 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 17-31 are added. Claims 17-31 are pending in the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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